

## Message Text

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44

ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 DHA-02 /016 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7600

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7572

FOR H-JENKINS FROM AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PINS, BR

SUBJECT: MORMON MISSIONARIES

REF: STATE 202488

1. COINCIDENTAL WITH THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING VISA PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE MORMON MISSIONARY PROGRAM IN BRAZIL, INQUIRY BY AN EMB OFF REVEALED A BOTTLENECK IN THE SECURITY SCREENING PROCESS FOR MISSIONARY VISA APPLICANTS WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF THOSE REQUESTS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY PENDING.

2. CLEARANCE REQUESTS IN SUCH CASES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REFERRED BY THE JUSTICE MINISTRY TO THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SNI), WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES LIE IN THE FIELDS OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION. BETWEEN SIX MONTH AND ONE YEAR AGO, ACTION ON VISA CLEARANCE REQUESTS WAS SWITCHED TO THE INTERPOL LIAISON UNIT OF THE FEDERAL POLICE. CASES HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING THERE UNRESOLVED, IN PART BECAUSE THE UNIT WAS AWAITING AN INTERPOL POLICY DECISION ON WHETHER TRANS-NATIONAL CLEARANCE CHECKS (PRESUMABLY USING WASHINGTON INTERPOL FILES IN THE CASE OF US CITIZENS) COULD BE CONDUCTED ON VISA APPLICANTS. INTERPOL HAS DETERMINED THAT BRAZILIAN REQUESTS FOR CHECKS ON A ROUTINE BASIS FOR PERSON DEFINED IN TERMS OF THEIR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND/OR VOCATION FALL OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE GOVERNING INTERPOL'S OPERATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE FEDERAL POLICE THREE WEEKS AGO INFORMED THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THAT PENDING

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CHECKS OF LACAL INTERPOL FILES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS MAY BREAK

UP THE LOGJAM WHICH HAS BEEN MOUNTING, PROVIDED THE JUSTICE MINISTRY IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUCH CLEARANCE PROCEDURE AS CONSLUSIVE.

3. BASED ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WE PERCIEVE BUREAUCRATIC DELAY ( PARTICULARLY IN THE SECURITY SCREENING PROCESS) RATHER THAN DELIBERATE INTEN, AS THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM THE MORMON CHRUCH FACES IN OBTAINING APPROVAL OF VISA APPLICATIONS. SIMILAR DELAYS AFFECT ALL MISSIONARY GROUPS DEEING ACCESS TO BRAZIL, ALTHOUGH THE ORMON CASE APPEARS TO FALL AT THE LONG END OF THE SPECTUM FO FAR AS PROCESSING TIME OF VISA REQUESTS IS CONCERNED. IN THE PAST, THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS LOOKED UPON THE MISSIONARIES OF SOME SECTS (NOT INCLUDING THE MOROMONS, AS BEST WE KNOW) AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INTERNAL DISSENT AND SUBVERSION; IT HAS ADOPTED A CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE IN THE PROCESSING OF ALL MISSIONARY VISA REQUESTS. EMBOFF ACCOMPANIES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MORMON CHRUCH IN BRAZIL TO MEETING WITH HEAD OF CONSULAR DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY IN OCTOBER 1975, AT WHICH SOME TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED AND SECURITY SCREENING GIVEN AS LIKELY CASE OF DELAYS. THEREAFTER, ANUMBER OF PENDING CASES WERE PROCESSED AND THE BACKLOG OF APPLICATIONS REDUCED--A DEVELOPMENT WHICH REINFORCES OUR BELIEF THAT THE PROBLEM AGAIN IS ESENTIALLY PROCEDURAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL.

4. AT THIS TIME, WE BELIEVE OUR BEST POLICY IS TO WAIT FOR A MONTH OR SO TO SEE IF THE BREAKTHROUGH DESCRIVED ABOVE PRODUCES RESULTS FORTHER DOWN THE PIPELINE. HOWEVER, IF THE PROBLEM FOR THE MORMONS CONTINUES UNABATED, THE EMBASSY WILL THEN CONSIDER ANOTHER APPROACH IN THIS MATTER EITHER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. EMBASSY WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITHLOCAL LEADERSHIP OF MORMON CHURCH ON THIS SUBJECT.  
CRIMMINS

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